Fall 2018

History 301

Fighting the Atlantic Slave Trade

"…probably among the three or four perfectly virtuous acts recorded in the history of nations." - *W.E.H. Lecky, 1869.*

Until the beginning of the nineteenth century, most people in the world lived under some kind of bondage, with slavery being perhaps the most extreme form. However, a diverse group of people–made up of politicians, entrepreneurs, religious men and women, as well as former slaves and slave traders–based mainly in Britain, changed that reality. They persuaded the world's most powerful nation at the time that the enslavement of human beings was morally wrong and that it should be vanished from the face of the Earth, beginning with the transatlantic slave trade. This course will provide students with an opportunity to retrace the abolitionists' steps to fight the traffic by engaging in a series of research and writing activities. These activities will allow them not only to explore that important historical event, but also to learn how to change the world through research and writing.

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Domingues
Office: Humanities, 304
Classroom: Baker Hall 102
Contact: dd41@rice.edu
Office hours: Tue 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Class time: Tue & Thu 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm

Topics

Aug 21	Introductions and Overview
Aug 23	Meeting the Abolitionists
Aug 28-30	Mapping the Slave Trade
Sep 04-06	Interviewing Planters, Traders, and Slaves
Sep 11-13	Understanding the Economics of Slavery
Sep 18-20	Making Allies in the Parliament

Sep 25	Making Allies Abroad
Oct 02-04	Abstaining from Slave Produce
Oct 11	Petitioning for Abolition
Oct 16-18	Confronting Radicals and Reactionaries
Oct 23	Attracting Investors
Oct 31-Nov 01	Meeting Our Adversaries
Nov 06-13	Reinvigorating the Campaign
Nov 15	Defeating the Traffic
Nov 20	Reflecting on the Campaign
Nov 27	Farewell

Course Organization

This course is organized in the form of a seminar with two meetings per week. Time in class will be dedicated primarily to reading, discussion, and research. The instructor reserves the right to intervene in the outline whenever he thinks appropriate, including changes to readings and addition of materials. The required readings are available at the library or the course's Canvas page. Students are encouraged to read the modules available on the course's Canvas page before each class. Participation in class is crucial for a successful learning experience. Therefore, students will be expected to engage in class discussions and voice their opinions based on the readings and other materials.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is required from every student. Students are allowed up to two unexcused absences. If a student misses class for a third time without a formal excuse, he or she will be automatically withdrawn from this course. Students are responsible for obtaining notes and announcements made in the classes they missed. Long periods of absence due to illness must be explained either by: 1) a signed letter from the doctor (not an appointment card, bill, receipt, or prescription) with the dates the student remained ill, or 2) a letter from the Dean of the Students.

Assignments and Grades

During the course, students will be required to submit several short assignments. Writing assignments are due in MS Word format (.doc or .docx) through Canvas no later than 11:59 pm on the days assigned below (except the Nov 13 assignment which is due in class on that day):

Due Date	Assignments	Journal Entries
Aug 26	-	Entry 1
Sep 02	Report to Society	Entry 2
Sep 09	Participant Interviews	Entry 3
Sep 16	Economic Report	Entry 4
Sep 23	Pamphlet to Parliament	Entry 5

Sep 30	Newspaper Article	Entry 6
Oct 07	Abstention Campaign Effort	Entry 7
Oct 14	Petitioning Effort	Entry 8
Oct 21	Raising Awareness	Entry 9
Oct 28	Investment Pitch	Entry 10
Nov 04	West Indian Lobby Interview	Entry 11
Nov 13	Presentation	Entry 12
Nov 18	Bill Proposal	Entry 13

Each assignment will be graded on a 100 point scale. Writing assignments will be weighed as 50% of your total grade, journal entries as 30%, and participation as 20%. Grades for all assignments will be based on the quality of the argument, coherence, and originality, in addition to students' knowledge of the material and issues discussed in class. Papers should be delivered in proper academic writing. Sloppy writing includes but is not limited to poor organization, distracting grammar, and/or spelling errors. If present, these issues will result in a grade reduction. Late papers will be penalized 10 points for each day that they are late and will not be accepted after 3 days, unless prior arrangements have been made for an extension. Students are strongly advised to deliver their papers on time. Students can also access their grades on Canvas. If students have doubts about their grades, they may contact the instructor, but revisions will be made only with the originals attached.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to convert numeric scores into letter grades and vice-versa. If an assignment is missing, the score for that specific work will be graded zero. Further information on grade and the grading system is available under the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the university's General Announcements.

Grade	Scores	Grade Points
A+	97.00 to 100.00	4.00
A	93.00 to 96.99	4.00
A-	90.00 to 92.99	3.67
B+	87.00 to 89.99	3.33
B	83.00 to 86.99	3.00
B-	80.00 to 82.99	2.67
C+	77.00 to 79.99	2.33
C	73.00 to 76.99	2.00
C-	70.00 to 72.99	1.67
D+	67.00 to 69.99	1.33
D	63.00 to 66.99	1.00
D-	60.00 to 62.99	0.67
F	0.00 to 59.99	0.00

Academic Conduct
In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook, which outlines the university's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated.

Audio and Video Recording
Students may not make audio or video recordings of class activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with the law.

Students with Disabilities
Students who need disability-related accommodations to attend this course or who have emergency medical information to share should notify the instructor as soon as possible and register with the Disability Support Services at dss.rice.edu/.

Emergency Plan
In the event of an emergency, the university's emergency management plan will take priority over the timeline of this syllabus. Detailed information about emergency preparedness is available at emergency.rice.edu/.